

DCI/ICS 82-3016
18 May 1982

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Director, Intelligence Community Staff

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19 MAY 1982

FROM:
Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff

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SUBJECT: Meeting with COMSAT General Representatives, 18 May 1982

1. At the invitation of Dr. John Byrne, Administrator, NOAA, I attended a meeting held in his office on 18 May. The subject of the meeting was the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade (CCCT) decision regarding the transfer of the civil weather satellites to the private sector. As you will recall, the CCCT decided not to transfer the civil weather satellites to the private sector. COMSAT General did not believe their views had been adequately considered in the CCCT decision and had asked Secretary Baldrige for an opportunity to be heard. Their request resulted in the 18 May meeting.

2. COMSAT General was represented by Mr. James Lynn, Dr. Paul Maughan, Mr. Dennis Burnett and Mr. Frederick Hofmann. Also attending, in addition to NOAA representatives, were LTC Gil Rye, NSC Staff; and Dr. Vic Reis, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

3. Dr. Byrne reviewed the CCCT decision for the COMSAT General representatives. He stated that national security considerations set the tone for discussion by the CCCT, but were not conclusive arguments by themselves. I agreed with his characterization and added some amplification, at his request. Dr. Reis also added, in some detail, reasons why OSTP had arrived at a judgment that the transfer of the civil weather satellites was not in the best interests of the country.

4. Dr. Byrne concluded the meeting by saying that he wanted to give COMSAT General's views a fair hearing. To do so, he proposed that NOAA prepare a summary of the issues that had been addressed by the CCCT and give COMSAT General an opportunity to comment on each of the issues.

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